

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 8, please replace the paragraph beginning with "Fig. 23:" with the following:

Fig. 23: Normalized UV-vis ~~spectrum~~ absorption spectra of two streptavidine conjugates obtained by reacting DY-630-NHS and or DY-631-NHS esters with streptavidine conjugate in the molar ratio of 2:1. The advantage of the new markers is apparent from the reduced aggregation band for the DY-631 conjugate at 580 nm.

On page 8, please replace the paragraph beginning with "Fig. 24:" with the following:

Fig. 24: Normalized UV-vis ~~spectrum~~ absorption spectra of two avidin conjugates obtained by reacting DY-700-NHS and or DY-701-NHS esters with avidin conjugate in the molar ratio of 2:1. The advantage of the new markers is apparent from the reduced aggregation band for the DY-701 conjugate at 650 nm.